(b) whether it has been converted into Devaswam *poramboke* ;

and (c) whether the conversion of Government *poramboke* into Devaswam *poramboke* deprives the subjects of the Civil rights which they had in respect of those *porambokes* prior to the conversion ?

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—(1) Yes.

(2) Yes.

(3) On 22nd April 1928 and 11th July 1928 respectively.

(4) Yes.

(5) to (9). The matter is under enquiry. Government cannot furnish the information at this stage.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon's appointment as acting Peishkar.

636. Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Will the Government be pleased to inform the Council:—

(1) is the Government aware that his appointment as acting Peishkar is looked upon by the public in general and the litigants in particular as a great loss to the judiciary;

(2) will the Government be pleased to say whether they could not find any competent hand in the Revenue or other Executive Departments to be appointed as acting Diwan Peishkar;

(3) is the Government not aware that the duties attended to at present by Mr. Damodara Menon, the Special Officer, were being looked after by Mr. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar in addition to his duties as Diwan Peishkar; if so, did the Government require Mr. Damodara Menon to look after the duties of the Diwan Peishkar also during the latter's absence on leave;

(4) is not the Government aware that the minimum pay of the Diwan Peishkar is Rs. 350 only; if so, could not the Government find anybody, other than a Judge of the highest court in the land, to be appointed to this place on the minimum pay;

(5) if the minimum pay is Rs. 350, will the Government be pleased to say why they thought it necessary to deprive the judiciary of one of its best Judges?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—(1) Government are not aware.

(2) None so competent as Mr. Krishna Menon could be found.

(3) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative and that to the second part in the negative.

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(4) The Government are aware; the Government could not find anybody else.

(5) The question is not very clear. Mr. Krishna Menon was wanted for the Diwan Peishkar's place and, in the opinion of the Government, his place in the judiciary will be worthily filled by Mr. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—With regard to answer to (1), may I know whether the Chief Court has been consulted officially in the matter ?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—No.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Then with reference to answer to (2). There is the question of the comparative merits of Mr. Krishna Menon. He may be competent in that Department as well. The question is whether the Government could not find a competent hand in the Revenue or other Executive Departments to be appointed as acting Diwan Peishkar.

President.—That is the answer given. Government has given the answer. You have to accept it.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—(3). May I know why it was not done in the interests of retrenchment or economy ?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—Because even Mr. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar was complaining that he was not able to discharge the duty satisfactorily. Government thought it necessary to appoint a Special Officer to look after these duties.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Is that complaint on record, please ?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—Yes.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar's acting appointment.

637. Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Will the Government be pleased to inform the Council:—

(1) whether the Government is not aware that the appointment to the Chief Court of Mr. Vaidyanatha Ayyar, who has not been for over four years in touch with the administration of law, is not likely to add to the efficiency in the administration of justice in that court;

(2) will the Government be pleased to say why it did not consider it desirable to elevate the present Government Advocate or any other leading practitioner of the Chief Court to the vacancy in that court;

(3) is it that the Government did not consider the question or is it that the Government could not find any member of the Bar competent for the place in question?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—(1) In the opinion of the Government, the appointment will not impair the efficiency in the administration of justice in the Chief Court.

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